

**From:** Fixemers1  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 9:26pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

The opinions expressed herein are my opinions and are not influenced by, or the responsibility of, my employer.

I beleive that the proposed settlement is too weak and offers too many avenues for Microsoft to not comply with the spirit of the settlement.

One of the most important facets of the settlement that provides an insufficient remedy is the proposed opening of Microsoft APIs. As a computer user who happens to be a programmer I have as much right to write a program that accesses an API as any ISV, IHV, IAP, ICP, or OEM. I paid money for my hardware and for the operating system. If my system does not do a job that I wish it to do, I should be able to add the desired functionality. I deserve documentation of all of the APIs on or available for my system. I beleive this is especially true for the operating system, because it is the master program, the program that all others depend upon and interface with.

The format for distribution of the APIs is also insufficient. It should be distributed in industry standard HTML4.0 with PNG or JPEG images. It should also be available, with free registration, for anyone visiting a specified Microsoft development website.

Sincerely,

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Definition:

API - Documentation describing the form of a function call, any important algorithms, protocols, structure descriptions, any requirements for calling a function or stateful changes that are caused by calling a function.

APPENDIX:

As a programmer I understand that documenting and making publicly available an API will NOT compromise security. Only forcing the distribution of both encryption keys and the API can compromise security. If someone wants to go to the extent of dissassembling a program to obtain an encryption key, then it will not be considerably more difficult to dissassemble and reverse engineer an encryption algorithm. Often algorithms for encoding and decoding data are provided with an API, because part of the API requires an encrypted data stream

For this reason, encryption keys, even in Microsoft programs, are hardly ever hardwired into a program.

Also an API will not expose every possible functional interface, only those that present meaningful functionality.